

Appln No. 10/717,035
Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the Action, claim 1 is rejected for being unclear as to the metes and bounds of the patent protection sought. Although Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is sufficiently clear, in the interest of expedited prosecution, Applicant has incorporated claims 3, 6 and 7 into claim 1, canceling previous claims 3, 6 and 7. Applicant respectfully submits that with this amendment, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

With reference to claims 14-19, the Examiner has requested that the comparisons within those claims be deleted. Claims 14-19 have been amended as requested.

Finally, claims 2-13 and 20 were rejected for depending from rejected claim 1. As claim 1 has now been amended to overcome this rejection, so, too, claims 2-13 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of the claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action. As the claims have now been so amended, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of this application is respectfully submitted.

If any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, Applicant would appreciate if the Examiner would advise the undersigned by telephone.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 03-1728. Please show our docket number with any charge or credit to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

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